

Legislative work encompasses many issues

Business

Small Business Development Centers

Congressman Nunes signed a letter by Rep. McKeon to Small Business Committee Chairman Manzullo asking for him to remove a provision in H.R. 2802, the Small Business Reauthorization and Manufacturing Revitalization Act, which would require the Secretary to close four to six regional lead Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in California. Congressman Nunes would rather see California's SBDCs be exempt from this provision just like Texas. A regional approach for the SBDC program makes sense for a state that is as large and diverse as California. It allows the program to be tailored for its cliental, while increasing the efficiency and quality of the services provided.

Education

Rural Schools

Congressman Nunes became a cosponsor of H.R. 3781, the Assisting America's Rural Schools Act, which was introduced by Rep. Gibbons (R-NV). This bill would provide rural Local Education Agencies (LEA) with some flexibility in meeting the definition of a "highly qualified teacher" without diminishing the accountability standards for a highly qualified teacher. Many rural school districts throughout the country only have the resources to hire a few teachers who teach multiple subjects for all middle and secondary schools. Most of these teachers,

while highly qualified in one subject, are not highly qualified in all the subjects needed to provide a comprehensive education for middle and secondary school students. Once the Department of Education deems a school district eligible, they will be allowed to defer for one year any teacher already highly qualified in at least one core academic subject from the federal regulation of being "highly qualified" in every subject they teach. In other words, a highly qualified teacher working towards obtaining that certification in another subject can still teach both subjects. It's a win win for everyone – especially the students in rural communities. This will impact 28 LEAs in the 21st Congressional District and over 13,170 students.

Energy

Hydro Power

Rep. Nunes introduced H.R. 3932, legislation to reauthorize the continued use of hydroelectric facilities in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. In this time of diminished capacity of electricity generation, the last thing we need to do is close down a clean source of energy.

Environment

Air Quality

It has come to Rep. Nunes' attention that the transportation reauthorization legislation does not include the PM-10 particulate standard in its Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Funds (CMAQ) allocation formula. This omission could have a significant

negative impact on San Joaquin Valley cities. With this concern in mind, Rep. Nunes joined with his colleagues in a letter to the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman Joe Barton urging him to add PM-10 to the funding allocation formula. PM-2.5, a new particulate standard that is to be included in the transportation reauthorization bill (TEA-LU), is not a substitute for PM-10. PM-10 continues to be a federal requirement and therefore this reauthorization should address PM-10 in the CMAQ allocation formula. Although many California areas are expected to be compliant under the PM-2.5 criteria, many will remain moderate or serious PM-10 areas. PM-10 is one of the greatest air quality issues facing California.

Oxygenate

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the California Environmental Protection Agency submitted a request



to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a waiver of the 2 percent oxygenate mandate for California's gasoline. Consequently, Rep. Nunes joined his California colleagues in transmitting a letter to Michael Leavitt, Administrator of EPA urging him to swiftly approve the request. A Federal waiver is crucial to California's ability to improve its ground water and air quality through the

Quick Facts

In March, Rep. Nunes helped 12 constituents overcome problems with government agencies. For the year, the Congressman has directly solved issues for 91 constituents and is currently assisting 349 others.

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